(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the number of such corridors which are emanating from Delhi and Madhya Pradesh respectively;

(c) what action Government propose to take to achieve the target of expressways within the time frame;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there are 14 major National and State Highways where traffic density is expected to increase to 25000 passenger car units and above by 2000 AD; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take to tackle the density of traffic on these highways by the turn of the century ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) A study completed under the aegis of Asian Development Bank has made recommendation that this country would need an Expressly network of about 10,020 kilometres by the year 2015 A.D. Based on various assumptions, four corridors emanating from Delhi and three passing through Madhya Pradesh have been tentatively identified in the Study. The construction programme of Expressways, which would require large outlays, would mainly depend on funds available for the purpose and the relative priorities of different corridors based on detailed techno-economic feasibility studies.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. As per current trend of traffic, the density of passenger car units would reach 25,000 on a number of sections on National Highways in the country by 2000 A. D. However, during the 8th Plan period, the outlay provided for Central Sector Roads Programme amounting to Rs. 2600 crores, is sufficient mainly to meet the needs of the on-going development works on the National Highways. In view of paucity of funds, the present strategy is to attend to removal of deficiencies in the system by strengthening the existing weak pavements and widening to two lanes or four lanes respectively in selected sections of medium and high density corridors of National Highways within the limitation of overall availability of funds.

Wearing of Helmets by Two Wheeler Drivers and Pillion Riders and Safety Belts by Car Drivers

1557. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to notify rules making it compulsory to two wheeler drivers and pillion riders to wear helmets and to car drivers to wear safety belts as part of the road safety measures;

(b) if so, by when suitable amendments in the relevant Acts are proposed to be made; and

(c) to what extent it would help in reducing deaths due to road accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) A proposal to amend Section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act so as to make compulsory wearing of helmets by two-wheeler drivers and pillion riders is under consideration of the Government. A proposal to make mandatory the fitment of seat-belts in passenger cars manufactured from a notified date is also under consideration of the Government.

(b) Proposals are being finalised in consultation with the various concerned agencies and at this stage no definite date of notification/implementation can be indicated.

(c) Government believe that the proposed changes will reduce fatal accidents to a considerable degree.

Organisations port trust etc. functioning without Chairman

1558. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the organisations, Port Trust, Public Sector units and Authorities under his Ministry which are presently functioning without duly appointed Chairman; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to fill up such posts ?